

Children's Museum
Hartford, Conn.

DOLL TALK

FOR
COLLECTORS

Volume 10, Number 9

November-December, 1954



It's Christmas Again!



Never comes November but what we early birds begin to consider what the slow pokes wait to rush 'round about in December! It could be six or ten months late to carefully consider some Christmas giving—anyway, we at Kimport try outrageously hard to tempt you into buying dolls in every issue of Doll Talk all year long. Collecting, loving, investigating dolls—these are not seasonal spurts of interest. Even choosing just the proper one to give, or to finagle into holding for some loved one to give you might have been planned, months ago. If not—let's intensify such campaigns immediately.

Sketched directly above is a formal, all wooden family—Si, Papa Gay-Enamelio, just'a brang-bringed-brung Mamma and the Twinza from Napoli! She is as plump as a poka-dotted lady bug; he, smug as a cocoon and little chipsas, inch high bundles of fun! Colors and enamel finish are lovely. Senor Papa is just over 3 inches tall. No. 755, Italian Family of Four, \$1.50.

The Kokeshi half dozen is a Japanese family, all with those distinctive wobbly heads that no one seems able to figure out—HOW! Being nested, like the old Russian Matreshkas used to be, is a trick in itself, but to have a head that turns round about, the neck with no comprehensible solution of how it ever got into the body is mystery No. 2! Made of "seven year seasoned" wood that shows no grain, high gloss finish, striking patterning and colors—the two 3 inch ones come in a cute box with the 4 little ones nested inside. No. 809, Kokeshi, \$2.50.

We also stocked the fanciest miniature pair of Kokeshi dolls, not nested, only $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch high, but with the same exquisitely detailed finish and moving heads. Set in an inch square glass topped case, No. 809M, 75c (plus postage if ordered alone).

United Nations representatives—all of them—has been a Kimport ambition not yet realized, but we do keep whittling at the list. In rather small size only, 4½ inches tall, but beautifully made, proudly typical are "Omar" and "Zamara," slender, leather faced delegates from Arabia. Hands and feet are also leather and Zamara's scarlet gilt trimmed tunic is also of suede. Omar's girdled robe, long black coat and white head drape are typical desert attire. Both are mounted to stand on olive wood discs; she carries a basket of fruit atop her draped, dark head, while he carries a long hemp rope hamper. Looks like market day.

Shown on the front page

No. 896, Omar, \$2.50

No. 896A, Zamara, \$2.50

Xtra for Xmas ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

"Cuddles" may not be collector class to the hoity-toity, but she is an original idea, is handwork par excellence and the kindergarten set will adore her. Safe for whamming baby brother with—yes, all woolen yarn, lush colors, and such knitting and purling, all charmingly hand-made. Cuddles' removable skirt and sweater



alone are worth the price! Eleven inch yarn doll, No. 63X, in adorable outfit, Xtra, \$6.50 until Jan. 10, 1955.

On Doll Talk front page last August we bragged about Emilio



and Inday being one of the best buys that we'd been lucky enough to bring you. Not so industrious as Inday who is winnowing rice, but such an immaculately groomed little lovely is Maimuna, the dusky Moro charmer from Mindinao. There are pearls through her sleek raven coiffure and pearls at her throat and a pearl pinning the graceful gilt-shot sari which loops long from one shoulder. Her

lovely face is delicately molded and painted with wide brown eyes that seem to swallow you up! She stands almost 10 inches on her creamy hardwood base. No. 452, Moro Woman, \$4.50.

Since there's no Late Arrival Heading elsewhere this month, here is one such pair too Christmasy to hold over. It is the Hindu Bride and Groom of India, a brightly arrayed and tinsel bedecked pair of newlyweds. He stands 8½ inches tall from his bare brown feet to the tip of his red and silver turban. She is almost up to his shoulder at 7 inches

and both have large gold earrings. Their robes are gay shades of red, green, yellow and blue with abundant bracelets, anklets and neckbands in gold and silver. Although their cloth faces and bodies are rather crude, our honeymoon couple is an authentic collector type and will add color and character to any doll group.

No. 672B, Bride, \$2.95

No. 672C, Bridegroom, \$2.95

BELOVED CARDS

So many Doll-Idea cards have graciously come our way around Christmas that we really intended skimming off the useable-for-you ideas to pass along. Photograph groupings of special Christmas dolls like the Carolers, the Cratchit Family and Nativity groups are most popular. They are ingeniously posed in ever so many settings from formal to naturalistic and even comical.

On one card was a spotlighted circle, photographed obliquely from above to show a ring of fourteen foreign dollies of like size, but varied nationalities, touching hands. There's a decorated tree in the center, each child casts its shadow and 'round about this disc of cheer and fellowship is, well, just soft darkness in meaningful contrast to the Christmas light.

I shall not name senders; a lesson learned long ago was that one could not be "inclusive" without becoming "ex-clusive."

Oldfashioned treasures, seated on an antique love seat; a bisque little girl looking out my apartment window; adoring dolls around a formal creche; Mother and chil-

dren, circa 1890, seated and standing in a family group beside the family tree—and so it goes!

One even came last year that none of us real folk could claim; 'twas from the Andrews' Dolls to All the Dolls at Kimport!

FREE PRESS

This pass along item is for dinky little trimmings, for a skirt firmly sewed onto a little doll, etc. Simply use a well lighted, hot, light bulb to draw the wrinkled stuff across and presto—a fairy's flatiron could not have performed more smoothly.

Xtra for Xmas ☆ ☆

From mysterious Morocco comes Fatila, a desert woman of the

fierce Riff tribe. This doll is bazaar made of Moroccan leather, so skillfully worked that the material is not easily recognized unless closely examined. She is authentically dressed in striped robes, leather leggings, large straw hat and white, gauze-like veil. Features are hand painted on this 9½ inch woman of Tangier. No. 100N regular price is \$5.95. Xmas special \$5-00. in effect only until January 10, 1955.



MACKI AND MUCKI

No matter how often your friends use that overworked word "cute" when trying to compliment your dolls, you may have noted how we have avoided it as damning with cheap praise. But, after the learned background history, please go ahead and bubble about how cute, cute, cute are Macki and Mucki.



Margarethe Steiff of Giengen in Wurtemberg had become recognized as a designer of whimsical dolls by the turn of the century. Funny faced and often frowsty torped characters came from her Black Forest place, a small one really, until the miracle which took place there when an American toy buyer happened to unfold there a current Washington paper in which Teddy Roosevelt was cartooned with a cub bear as his trophy. "X"—marks the passing of years when the idea there born, "Teddy" the doll with a bear's head snowballed in popularity un-

til in 1907 there were 400 factory and almost 2000 home workers employed by Steiff. No wonder that famous name, back again in German toy annals, is so important. Steiff animals and fuzzy headed dolls are in a class by themselves. It is our understanding that Richard Steiff, a nephew, has rebuilt, after the years of war, but someone, definitely with genius, designs their toys today.

Our Little Miss Mucki and Brother Boy Macki in smallest, 5 inch size, are Steiff's version of legendary Hedgehog children. Bodies and solid, swivel heads are latex, brown skinned, red cheeked with bristly brown wigs cut 'widow's peak' in front and frosted like Aunt Sliver Fox! Their impish noses have moisty dark snout ends, up tilted in a most inquiring curve; their eyes are black and shiny too and big round ears stand out to hear your compliments—"cute, cute." Each bears the metal name tag of their maker, a trademark, by the way, that always did attach to animals and dolls of Steiff. Sh-h—She has fuzzy hair on her chest just like he has.

No. 617—Macki	\$3.95
No. 617A—Mucki	\$3.95

DO YOU KNOW—

The "Penny Wooden" on D.T. envelope this time was the official souvenir, sold at that important London exhibit last June, "Dolls Through the Ages."



ANOTHER EXHIBIT IDEA

When we submitted a "C Clip" to Mrs. William Ahlstrom for her permission to publish, she wrote back—"Yes, if you want to, although maybe it sounds a bit silly." Not so to understanding doll folk, Mrs. A., so here it is: "A few weeks ago, I had a Paper Doll display in the Madison, Ohio, Public Library. One of the jointed darkie paper dolls from Kimport, dressed in an old plaid paper costume, brought the most comment, according to the librarian. One exhibit showed an ancient real doll, cutting out a chain of tiny paper dolls, with her old paper dolls surrounding her. Lots of fun!" There was a polaroid snap included this time of the amazingly talented big papier-mache, proudly displaying between old leather hands, across her calico lap, a chain of unfolded white paper cut outs; truly — "Another Display Idea."

BABY DEBUT

Mrs. William J. Schwarz (Marie-mae's Doll House) recently sent in some new subscribers for us with the generous quote: "Whether or not you are aware, I am a constant booster for Doll Talk." We are aware. We do appreciate.

Kimport had written Mrs. Schwarz about buying a wax Montanari infant, to which she answered that ours sounded like the favorite of all her collection—a doll so life-like that it is almost too much like a real child. And here is what may well be a nugget of information.

"It is probable that these were first made for the Crystal Palace

Exposition in London in 1850. Mrs. St. George's research led her to assert that before that date there were no Baby dolls but that these were introduced quite successfully at that fair."

Xtra for Xmas ☆ ☆ ☆
Gallery 10.00 Jr.



Rosa and Fabio of Brazil have long and deservedly been favorites with Kimport customers. Rosa is gayly dressed in multi-colored skirt and blouse with Carmen-Miranda type basket of flowers on her head; Fabio is equally chic in his brightly hued britches and shirt. Made almost entirely of felt, these 9 inch dolls come under the classification of pretty, but they are strong in character, too. Regular price is ~~\$10.00~~ a pair. Special Xmas price of No. 365A and 365B is just \$8.95—good only until Jan. 10, 1955.

May Help YOU Be Convincing

Mrs. Caroline Piercy is a household name to doll collectors in the Cleveland area. Doll Talk has mentioned her time and again (see Vol. 10, No. 11), as she is always up to some project such as writing a new book or backing their museum collection. You will be interested in the following from a current letter:

"The other day at a Meet-The-Author program, I spoke at the Heights Library on my 'Victoria Enters a Doll Museum.' The audience of 5th and 6th grade pupils quite dismayed me when I learned that more boys than girls filled the seats of the auditorium. It was indeed a challenge to convince boys of that questioning age that dolls are among the most important objects found in a Historical or Children's Museum. After stressing the extreme age of dolls dating back to prehistoric times, I outlined their lineage through Egypt, Greece, Rome, the Orient and Europe. Then I covered some points on Creche, Fashion Dolls, and those which tell our own American history through the 'twig' and crude wooden ones, 'covered wagon' dolls (of which I had some wonderful examples), hank creatures, corn-cob and husk effigies, the endless array of rag or cloth dolls of the homespun era. Then came the fine procession of china, wax, bisque and compositions down to the lifelike dolls of today. The children sat entranced throughout the period!

"After a fifteen minute question period, even the boys seemed satis-

fied that nothing in our museums today tells the story of mankind as graphically as do dolls! They can depict race, creed, historic events, periods, literature, the theatre, industries, and countless phases of life. When used in miniature rooms or settings they immediately animate, make alive the setting.

"And so my young audience agreed unanimously that no other object, neither gun, nor plane, or ship model could tell stories as graphically as these little human effigies—dolls.

"In the Children's Museum of Boston there are one thousand objects which children have improvised as dolls—stones, sticks, bundles of straw or grass, which have been cherished and fondled as 'the child of the child.' Volumes could indeed be written on the influence of the doll upon the child as character builder."

IN HARTFORD

One of the outstanding Children's Museums is in Hartford, Connecticut, where among other treasures there is a very large doll collection. Museum groups of dolls are often assembled with furnishings of proper period and to scale which does add so much informative and pleasurable atmosphere. One little framed picture in the Hartford museum was a miniature print of the "Charter Oak," framed, so it was stated, in wood from that famous tree.

One of the drawbacks to temptation, is that it may never come again.

EYES FRONT—SHOULDERS BACK

None of us are above saving an honest penny, and besides it is sort o' challenging fun to repair an old doll. Once in a while some of you submit an "I-Done-It" story with a happy ending. "The Mathes" of California let us in on one recently that I'm certain Ruth won't mind sharing as she did seem proud of Bob's successful solution to "Who Pinched Lady Trippletop's Shoulder?"

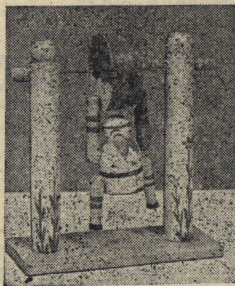
Mr. R. C. M. writes: "Here is explanation of a little trick I stumbled on when we had a little old papier-mache headed doll with triple topknot, but the back of the shoulders gone completely up to the hairline. Puzzling how to restore it, I recalled I had some Plasticine, so with this, I modeled a dummy set of shoulders on which the head and bust could be placed. Then it was simple to model the plasticine for the back just about 1/6 inch under the desired form for the neck and back. A few strips of bias cut line cloth over the plasticine provided a lap over which could be glued to inside of original part of head. Next I mixed a little batch of wood putty and smeared over the plasticine in a thin layer joining onto the original material. Wood putty can be carved easily with an "Exacto" knife after hardening. The plasticine pulled out readily and the shape of the result looks almost original. It just needs enameling."

There were further definite instructions about the painting also, which they generously suggested to be passed along via Doll Talk.

"We repainted the flat pink which someone had smeared on, with flesh toned enamel. Then after tinting the cheeks, rubbing down with pumice and oil produces a really fine looking antique effect. The secret is to use a good varnish or enamel. Quite a range of flesh tones can be secured with the use of a little Mars Yellow and Terra Rosa for the tinting colors, combined with white or very light ivory enamel. For dark flesh tones, the base may be ivory; for light tones it is better to start with white. Only small amounts of these colors are needed as both of these excellent colors are basically vivid and quite dark."

Xtra for Xmas ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

More of a toy than a doll, but too jolly and bright to be upset by the lack of social standing, is



our Japanese acrobat. Built on a pink wooden base, 5x2½" square, he hangs suspended between two posts 6" tall, and when you turn the knobs

he somersaults or loops the loop with enthusiastic agility. All wood and brightly painted, his regular price is \$1.00. Xmas Special when ordered with other dolls to bring total order price to over \$1.00, he is just 75c for No. 812 until Jan. 10, 1955.



Because of the sentiment in this idealistic bit of verse we are going to stress beautiful dolls this time. Other months the personality girls, the classic examples of this or that, old treasures of many materials, all will have their day, but this time—Beauties. Wish I knew whom to credit for the poem, rather than just “Ex.”

“Let me grow lovely growing old;
So many fine things do,
Laces and ivory and gold
And silks need not be new;
And there is healing in old trees
Old streets a glamour hold,
Then why may not I as well as
these

Grow lovely growing old?”

The prettiest ones on our shelves are the bisques and the wax ones, a few chinās are definitely handsome, but the old precious papier-maches, the woodens and such, have to get their Blue Ribbons for personality.

Beautiful, ball head, French Bisque with paperweight eyes of cornflower blue; original wig, all close ringlets; high color cheeks and finest line painting of lashes and brows. The modeling on these closed mouth bisques made prior to the time when the top of head was cut out, is superb. Shell-like ears, lush, plump shoulders and head slightly turned. Head is perfect, broken thumbs on ori-

ginal hands. Sweetly dressed in old, rose stripe dimité made with flounces and boat neckline. Old, rosy red, Morocco leather shoes with gilt buttons. Twenty inches tall. No. A418, \$125.00.

Exactly the same type of closed mouth, parian-like bisque is a 13 inch, chubby, only her wig has bangs and braids, and there is a mend, low on the back of one shoulder. Glass eyes are the same deep blue. All leather body and hands, very cute old costume combining plain red with a charcoal gray, red poka dotted material. Funny, but, yes, becoming old hat of moss green velvet trimmed in red. She is a darling! No. A419, \$47.50.

Old, best bisques from France were more often unmarked than otherwise. Remember, identification of country on dolls for export was not required until 1891. I think the next two are Jumeaus, one a lovely child, “Helena,” with huge brown eyes; the other a swivel neck fashion doll with rigid kid body. The little girl one has such a pretty head, closed mouth, of course, pierced ears, original pale blonde wig, and then the eyes with that almost human expression! There seems a tiny retouch on an eyelid, otherwise her swivel head is perfect. Composition body is Jumeau shaped, with rounded out tummy, deep sit-down hips and upper leg section cut out back of the knee, all for better sitting posture. We checked under her faded blue satin slippers—the feet look brand new. Adorable old velvet frock, cape and bonnet are dark purple velvet with touches in briar stitching and

bonnet facing of pale gold. Eighteen inch Helena, No. A424, \$87-50.

The French Fashion is a small one, only 11½ inches tall, but she has all the earmarks such as two-part, swivel shoulder head, deep blue, almond shaped eyes, slender adult features. Doll is all original with white kid hands and feet, dark brown, human hair that has become a trifle scanty. Costume by Mary Wood is correctly styled with basque and trailing skirt, of sapphire blue silk with fine black lace and medallions. Period hat to match; it is all beautifully hand sewn. Did we say "ear marks"? Ear piercing, with sapphire pendants! She is a model, indeed—No. A178, priced special at \$128.00.

So far our beautiful bisques have been so elegant, and yes, expensive, but we'll come down to a few—also pretty—but German ones. After all, Germany was long the main source of all the world's dolls . . . Did your great aunt's kid bodied best doll have blue eyes or brown? Here is a precious one of each.

"Aunt Mildred's doll" is the older, larger; circa 1884, 22 inches tall. Only marking on her 5½ inch high perfect head is a numeral 5. Her dark brown eyes are extremely convex with fine line lashes all around—even a double row across the top lids, heavy brown brows, deep chisled nose, parted lips, pierced ears and a dimple. Bisque hands also are perfect; old wig in good condition, kid body clean and rigid; white kidmy "graduation" dress is yellowed with age, but becoming and

correctly styled with many small tucks, a skirt flounce and berth. No. A423, \$20.00.

Katie Kestner, made a generation later, about 1900, puts in her bid with the beauties, and here is why: That sweet, child-like Kestner bisque look due to special modeling and extra fine texture, big blue eyes that sleep, crown mark on her clean leather body. Katie couldn't stand chipped fingers so we bought her proper pink bisque arms from H.D.D.H. Dressed in starchy white undies and dotted swiss dress, blue velvet coat and bonnet, plaid stockings and leather slippers, all o'd, and little girl style, No. A356, 21 inch Kestner, \$22.00.

Action, music, beauty, all combine for our last bisque offering. It is a dear little mechanical thing and it works, because we have turned the handle, but being as it is a most elaborate little ship with doll at helm, one desists twirling it around and around the way it is supposed to be. Some of the sails might fly loose, but the tune is lovely and the rigging all intact. This is definitely one of the dolls shown in last summer's London exhibit. It has it's tag and case number on, yet. Height over all, from the bottom of the maple handle to the top of the flag is about 19 inches. It is a cute little ship, all covered with satin ribbons and cut-out gilt paper; about 9 inches long, and on it's deck stands the dolly, a 5½ inch, closed mouth bisque with wooden body—pretty as can be. No. A390, price, \$50.00.

'Pretty as a Wax Doll'—because they ARE wax dolls, are "Alexandra," "Alice," "Amy" and the Baby.

Truly regal and rare is deep shouldered, wax fashion lady that is so royally lovely, she might well be an 1870 likeness of H.R.H. Alexandra, then Princess of Wales. Hair style is beautifully elaborate with a cascade of back curls away down on her shoulders. Little pin curls at the base of the pompadour, then a huge braid across. In her pierced ears are original old gilt jewel earrings; the necklace is a crystal teardrop affair with little bead bracelet to match. Arms are waxed also; eyes are a lovely blue-gray; features quite slender and adult. The body is one of those white leather, lovely ones with even the feet, leather. It is made small at the waist and rather large at the hips. She wears a white lace cloth formal with deep red ribbon bows, all clothing even to the little handkerchief held in one hand, is original. Twenty-one inch Alexandra is No. A383 at \$145.00.

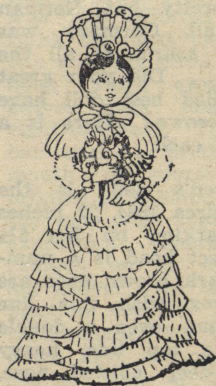
"Alice" is a dainty little doll, 12 inch size, with wax arms and legs; gray, paperweight eyes and original wig of ash blonde. The really unusual thing about this child—her two part head and shoulders, yes, her flawless, solid wax head, is set into wax shoulders like a bisque fashion doll. Her old chintz print dress, also original, is cute as can be with rosebuds all over the print. Original, old underwear is especially nice; lace stockings are white, and leather slippers so nice we were

sorely tempted to steal them for a Jumeau! There is also a floppy leghorn hat that comes with Alice, No. A61, \$60.00.

Miss Amy is another smallish beauty, not waxed, but with pure wax head, arms and legs. She has inset human hair, but instead of being a Montanari, Amy was seemingly made by one of the other English doll makers who adopted this process. Being set in tiny tufts, according to texture and modeling, this 14 inch miss could be an H. J. Meech of Kensington doll, circa 1870-80. As to positive statements, she is in excellent condition, no surface cracks or breaks; gray paper-

Xtra for Xmas ☆ ☆ ☆

Our doll representative from Fabulous Florida, made, we think,



with equally 'fabulous' artistry is Zella Layton's 6 to 7 inch Shell Girl. She is almost completely composed of delicate shells which form a full length gown, hat daintily decorated with shell posies and an exquisite bouquet.

Her face is cunningly painted on—you guessed it—a shell. Regularly \$5.00, No. 190C is a steal at our Special Xmas price of \$4.00—in effect only until Jan. 10, 1955.

weight eyes, golden blonde hair dressed with bangs and a coronet braid. Old, hand-made petticoats and bloomers, silk socks and buckle trimmed slippers, all correct with her gray blue dress of flower sprigged wool which is so sheer it is transparent. No. A331, Alice, \$78.00.

The Baby is a sleeping eyed one with infant features, short cropped wig and pretty brown eyes. She has a true flesh complexioned head; arms are pinker, but solid wax; legs, waxed composition which sounds like some replacements had been made. Christening type clothes are commensurate to the fine 3½ inch head, lovely old lace, and on the 21 inch long dress, a complete center panel of tucks and insertion. Baby also has a wool edged merino cape and bonnet. No. A399, \$55.00.

"Chelsea Pink" is highly esteemed as a luster-like finish on old china heads, so Hortense, Francie and little Emily, all pink complexioned, high glaze china headed ones are also included in our beauty parade.

Hortense has a finely painted and perfect, highbrow head, with jet curls wide out from the temples and a white center line part; coral red lines above her eyes, dots in their corners and at nostrils; especially high coloring on cheeks. Three and a half inch head, 15½ inch doll with tint luster arms and old brown shod, blue-bow gartered legs. Redressed by her late owner, but in a correct period style print material. Both skirt and over-bodice are trimmed with black, narrowest velvet ribbon and

cream lace frills. No. A427, \$37.50. Circa 1860.

"Francie" is so called because she has that slightly boyish hair style sometimes called "Frances Cleveland." Extra rosy cheeks on her pink tint complexion, black hair, with ears about half showing; her rather shallow shouldered, perfect head measures 3½ inches. On a new H.D.D.H. body with slender pink luster arms and jet trimmed pink shoes; one foot mended. Old gray print calico gown with black, pink and white in it's patterning. She is a sweet 13½ inch size, No. A415 at \$23.00.

Much older and all original is 6 inch Emily from England. Her very deep shouldered, pink head measures about 1¾ inches high; flat soled shoes and slender hands are dull finish; becoming, hand-made silk frock of tiny stripe and her undies look the good hundred years and more of this 1850 doll. Her black hair style rounds up to a high center part, with soft low curls around the back; eyes are a very deep blue. No. A407, \$22.00.

CHRISTMAS IN ENGLAND?

Perhaps not, but you might have some English friends who'd enjoy seeing a coming exhibition of dolls and toys. Lesley Gordon, whose latest book is so delightful, sent you the following invitation via Kimport: "American visitors to England might enjoy coming to see our exhibition of 'Toys Throughout the World' which is to be held at Foyle's Art Gallery, Charing Cross Road, London, from December 22 to January 15th."

—"THE BEST IS YET TO BE"

Sometimes it is difficult to keep from being partial to elderly people. Those with whom we have doll dealings have always seemed to grow more tolerant and cultured and so generally gracious, that young folks—in their forties for instance—may still seem a bit raw and unseasoned. There have been so many gentlewomen of around three score and ten that have proudly mentioned their age to us; no wonder we feel they are classics!

One letter on my desk this morning was from Mrs. James A. (Sallie) Scott of Tennessee, who has made numerous contacts, both social and charitable, based on her splendid doll collection. She tied into our Missouri by telling of a granddaughter who graduated from Stephens College, then married a young man from Jefferson City. For the doll part we quote:

"Doll Talk fascinates me so. I've kept them all. My collecting has meant everything to me. I can 'lose myself' with spending even a few minutes in my doll room, and feel like a new person by so doing! Let's hope for continued World Peace"—and that is truly a heart hunger, deep in all of us.

BABY DOLL

Baby books are a necessity for First Babies, and some good mothers even fill them out conscientiously for each succeeding child. Margaret Johnson (California) says a Baby Book is her favorite selection for a pink'n'blue shower, but here's the touch of

IT'S HISTORY

Here we go again, borrowing grief, by suggesting that somebody else should aim at a complete Presidential set! But the few who have budgeted and bought this array of our presidents and first ladies have all had such wonderful publicity. Mary Gerst in Hawaii, was first, and now comes word from Mrs. Verna Elias, the last to get hers completed. She writes of their first showing at the Bridgeport Hobby Show, a money making affair, by the way, sponsored by their Womans Assumption Guild.

"Sorry not to have better pictures to show you—flash bulbs were flaring all over the place, but so far, I've not had a good picture of my display. I had the dolls on tiers, with the white house in front. They sure looked beautiful as the lights shown on the pretty colors of their clothes—really stole the show. So many people told their relatives and friends, that the next day there was such a crowd we could hardly move in the large hall. I even lost my voice explaining about the dolls. So I had cards printed and people read them with much interest."

genius which she adds. It is a tiny antique doll, the kind with china head and limbs, daintily dressed as an infant. This she attaches to the cover, to be kept as a small heirloom. Margaret brought one in to our San Francisco exhibit "to share," as our 3rd graders say, and it truly was effective.

DOLL TALK

A magazine in miniature, published for doll enthusiasts. Issued about every eight weeks.

Subscription is \$1.00 for two years.

Address:

KIMPORT DOLLS
Independence, Mo.

Xtra for Xmas ☆



Aloma comes from Tahiti, French Oceania, attired only in grass skirt and sash of traders cloth. Made of a native palm fiber, her face is hand painted and she is adorned with headband and necklace of tiny shells. Not a beauty perhaps, according to strict doll-face standards, but really collector class. Regular, \$4.50. Xmas Xtra on this 8½ inch, No. 564 is only \$3.75, in effect only until Jan. 10, 1955.

Xtra for Xmas ☆ ☆ ☆

From an art center in Mexico comes a stylized senorita, surely attired in Christmas festival costume! Her blouse is white with sash in pale shades of red and green while her wool skirt is done in bolder tints of the same two colors. Face is smartly painted; black yarn wig hangs in two neat braids. This wooden doll stands nine inches in her painted green shoes. Regular, \$3.50, Xtra Xmas price only \$2.75, Order No. 352X, in effect only until Jan. 10, 1955.

FROM AN OLD SCRAP BOOK

Mrs. H. B. Thompson was going through old things as we all have to do betimes—among them was her mother's scrap book more than fifty years old of clippings and prints. Mrs. T. sent in to Kimport one yellowed bit of verse, not very good poetry, but ever so folksy and old-fashioned!—

THE RAG DOLL

They have kicked me under the sofa;

The baby's been chewing my hand;
The dogs and cats all claw me,
And I never know where I will land.

I guess it's a good thing for me,
That I haven't a single bone,
Nor a china face, nor a curly wig,
Nor the things most other dolls own.

There's Jumbo, baby's rag elephant,
I met him the other day,
And he has a worse time than I do—

I guess we will both run away.

—Exchange.

—Not claimed by any author even then, but simply signed "Exchange."

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

The need, yes, even demand, for showing doll collections is really something to note. We are informed of many such exhibits, from all over the country and always get a lift from hearing of these gracious endeavors.

A showing by Mrs. Ernest H. Perkins—I started to write “sound-ed extra flavorful,” and that really would have scrambled the senses! You see, it was in connection with an Annual Fall Color Tour, which by the way, seems to be a festive New England idea. Anyway, Nellie Perkins wrote us a few more words on her October project—one we had already noted on our Doll Collectors of America card. Even the location, Town and Country Inn, North of Brattleboro, sounded inviting, and, it's hostess, Mrs. Marie McCullom, is a doll enthusiast.

OLDER THAN OLD

Along with an exact size gloss print, indented to show that it had been photographed at the Metropolitan Museum, came this letter; we venture that it is the very earliest thing or doll adornment that you've ever heard described.

“I have a complete set of JEWELRY for a DOLL, ordered by a Pharaoh of Egypt far over two thousand years ago. This set consists of a little gold ring with plain bezel, a pair of tiny earrings also in gold with filigree decoration, and a necklace of gold links alternating with blue faience tubes. The necklace has the original hook and loop adorned with a garnet, and a gold disk as pendant. This

set is unique, there is no parallel in any museum in the world and the Curator of the Metropolitan Museum was interested in its purchase, yet the small size was considered to be inappropriate for an exhibit in so big a museum. The price of this unique set is \$2,000.”

Mr. Edward Gans, the connoisseur who offered this to us, deals with a museum and advanced collector clientele, as he is a top authority on ancient coins, classical jewelry and other archaeological objects. We, who furnish so many carefully selected but inexpensive dolls to you collectors, somehow felt complimented and important to be contacted concerning this rarest of ancient doll treasures. Should you be interested, we do have the picture and documentary data. It looks perfect, so dainty and classic in the manner of Old Egypt—might even be a good investment, but Kimport is not a financial adviser and \$2,000.00 sounds like high finance to us!

Xtra for Xmas ☆ ☆ ☆

Eleven inch Olaf and Christina are Swedish imports, play type dolls with nice commercial heads and cloth bodies. He is dressed in a floppy brimmed black hat, long coat and knee britches with red stockings, and cute leather apron. She is trimly attired in white blouse, Swedish cap, green, laced bodice, and a skirt with the traditional panel of bright horizontal stripes. Regular price is \$7-50 a pair. Xtra for Xmas, Order No. 956SP for the two, just \$6.75, good only until Jan. 10, 1955.

Correspondence Clippings

"We bought a larger house so I could have a room for my dolls, and now, you guessed it—we have to pay for the house."

—Marion E. Kunkler, New York.

"My china headed Grandma, dressed in black taffeta and holding her kitty, is now sitting in the Kimport Boston rocker. With a little braided rug under her feet she looks content and homey."

—Nellie B. Bass, Wisconsin.

"I feel that my antique dolls are always safe on Kimport stands."

—Mrs. Robert Martin, Ky.

"My mother gave away my G. S. Putnam baby, along with a pair of Kathe Kruse dolls. Of course, it's the same old 'If I knew then . . .' Thanks so much, for saving for me this Bye-Lo."

—Benita McClure, Indiana.

"Thank you for making it possible for me to have these two wonderful dolls. Without the time payments, I could not buy them. Summer payments cannot be large since I will be going to college, but after I return to work, I shall get this bill off as rapidly as possible. I loved the detailed information as the more one knows about dolls, the more interesting they are."

—Agnes McIlrath, Tenn.

"One of my sons and his wife gave me some birthday money—so here goes!"

—Bertha Garvin, Wash.

"The pedigree pages were useful to me in helping name some of my 'foreigners' for whom I'd had difficulty in selecting names. A friend traveling on sabbatical leave, just brought two adorable Arabs from Old Jerusalem, beautifully dressed. Now, I am planning a new home for my dolls in a lovely basement room of my new home. For drapes I already have material of 'Little Women' print which should be very effective."

—Beatrice Griffiths, Mass.

"Space and budget limit buying of dolls, but those I have help console me for daughter and grandsons living twelve hundred miles distant."

—Mrs. Louise Oder, Illinois.

"On our vacation, I found lots of dolls, including some Kimports and stands at your prices, so it is not necessary to travel to get them."

—Mrs. Charles Miller, Texas.

"For my first Kimport order—there is a metal head that I want so bad, it hurts! The last doll I owned (good forty years ago) was such a Minerva. She became so battered and banged that one day my big brother put the 'awful looking old thing' into the cook stove!"

—Mrs. R. M. Soeth, Calif.

"I am so happy with the Chinese Paper Dolls you sent. Temporarily, I arranged them under the glass on my coffee table, which has proven a fetching conversation piece." —Katherine Hester, Fla.

Madonna of the flowers

This serene lovely Mary and Child is a Berta Hummel creation, in creamy toned porcelain. There are flowers and stars repousse on her robe but the sweet little boy is center of interest. Imported from Germany this 9 inch figurine is a treasure.

"Mary's girlish face is bent towards the blossom in her hands, a flowerlet so small that it had been beneath a rock when all the others "drew themselves up high to 'broider Mary's cloak.'" This legend of the birdie (here perched on the book in her lap) that found and brought the tiny blossom to the Babe is told on the pedigree page.

No. 609—Hummel Madonna, \$12.00



THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF DOLL COLLECTORS

In fact we have several thousands on the mailing list of Doll Talk. But like the parable of the ninety and nine we'd like to interest the many not yet acquainted with Kimport Dolls—

Our friends have been thoughtful in sending in names of collectors among their acquaintances and we hasten to send complimentary copies of Doll Talk to any not on our list. Others generously give subscriptions. It's always done in the spirit of sharing a good thing—and we do appreciate such helpfulness.

We'd Like to GIVE AWAY Some Treasured Paper Dolls

Last Doll Talk we offered two sets of reprinted early paper dolls from the John Greene Chandler Museum. There was 4½" "Alice" with two fancy frocks and a bonnet, and "Carry" 3¾" with four little outfits. They were 189A and 189C, 50 cents for either set.

Either Alice or Carry FREE With A Dollar Subscription

Sorry, not a renewal for yourself but a two year subscription to Doll Talk for someone else. Why not send in several subscriptions? There will be a gift set for each dollar sent in.

**OFFERS GOOD ONLY TILL CHRISTMAS 1954—
PLEASE HURRY!**

KIMPORT DOLLS, Independence, Mo.